

May 24, 2010

The Common Council met as the Water Utility Board at 7:00 p.m. on the above date in the Meeting Room at City Hall Annex with Mayor Tucker presiding and members Askren, Fuelling, Hoehn, Curtis, and Higgins attending. Others attending were Supt. Gray; Chief Waters; Chief Beloit; Comm. Maynard; Larry Williams; Andy Hoehn; Matt Watson; Mat Watson; Pam Robinson – Posey County News; Corey Woolsey – Mount Vernon Democrat.

Mayor Tucker called the meeting to order by stating members were either mailed or hand carried copies of the minutes of their previous meeting and by asking if there were any corrections or additions. He added if not, he entertains a motion to waive their reading and to approve the minutes as presented.

Board member Higgins moved the reading of the minutes be waived and they be approved as presented.

Seconded by b Board member Curtis.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker requested action on the claims presented.

Board member Askren moved the claims presented be allowed for payment. Seconded by Board member Fuelling.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

*****CLAIMS*****

Mayor Tucker stated they will now hear the report of the Water Chairwoman.

Chairwoman Askren stated she has no report.

Supt. Gray stated he has no report, all is running well at the moment.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker stated they have the Financial Report before them and any questions could be directed it Bookkeeper Bennett.

Mayor Tucker asked if the Clerk-Treasurer had any Communications for the Board ?

Clerk-Treasurer Sitzman replied not at this time.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any Legals for consideration ?

Clerk-Treasurer Sitzman replied she has none.

Mayor Tucker asked if anyone in the Audience wished to address the Board ?

Comm. Maynard approached and stated they have had a high water bill a couple of months back at their Kimball Street location. He stated one bill was \$886.91, one was \$457.34....they have since discovered a leak due to a break in the bathroom line. He added it has been repaired and he would like to request an adjustment.

Supt. Gray added there were some weak joints that failed and agreed that it is fixed, and recommended an adjustment/refund.

Board member Askren moved the request be approved. Seconded by Board member Hoehn.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Board voting as follows:

Askren – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker asked if anyone else in the Audience wished to address the Board ?

Matt Watson approached and stated he would also like to request an adjustment on his water bill. He stated he has spoken with Supt. Gray and come to find out he has had a toilet problem for months.

Supt. Gray stated his bills had been running a little high, Mr. Watson fixed the toilet but didn't come to the office right away – actually this has been going on off and on for about a year now. He added he would like permission to also adjust the billing three months after the leak was fixed.

Board member Fuelling wondered if they would take an average to work out the amount of the adjustment.

Mr. Watson stated June – August 2009 the bill was normal, but then from September 2009 to January 2010, it was out of whack.

Board member Curtis moved the two high bills (December 2009, January 2010) be adjusted back to normal, per Supt. Gray. Seconded by Board member Hoehn.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Board voting as follows:

Askren – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Watson thanked the Board and left the meeting.

Mayor Tucker asked if anyone else in the Audience wished to address the Board ?

There was no response.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any Old Business ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any New Business ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated if there was no further business, he entertains a motion to adjourn.

Board member Askren moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Board member Fuelling.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously and adjourned the meeting.

John Tucker
Mayor

ATTEST:

Cristi L. Sitzman
Clerk-Treasurer

The Common Council met immediately following the Water Utility Board on the above date in the Meeting Room at City Hall Annex with Mayor Tucker presiding and members Askren, Fuelling, Hoehn, Curtis, and Higgins attending. Others attending were Attorney Higgins; Supt. Gray; Chief Waters; Chief Beloat; Comm. Maynard; Larry Williams; Andy Hoehn; Matt Watson; Pam Robinson – Posey County News; Corey Woolsey – Mount Vernon Democrat.

Mayor Tucker called the meeting to order by stating members were either mailed or hand carried copies of the minutes of their previous meeting and by asking if there were any corrections or additions. He added if not, he entertains a motion to waive their reading and to approve the minutes as presented.

Councilman Curtis moved the reading of the minutes be waived and they be approved as presented.

Seconded by Councilwoman Hoehn.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker stated they will now hear the reports of the Standing Committees.

Street & Light Chairman Fuelling stated he has no report.

Comm. Maynard stated he has no report.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Police & Dog Chairwoman Hoehn stated she has no report.

Chief Beloat stated he has no report.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Fire Chairman Curtis reported 27 runs since their last meeting.

Chief Waters stated he has no report.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Sewer Chairwoman Higgins stated she has no report.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker asked if the Clerk-Treasurer had any Communications for the Council ?

Clerk-Treasurer Sitzman replied she received an advance draw from the county on Friday, but they will more than likely still have a Resolution of Temporary Loan at the next meeting, at least for Park & Rec. She added they only received around \$30,000 of the little over \$1M advance.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker stated they are now ready for the Legal portion of the Agenda.

Attorney Higgins stated the heavy load ordinance is up for final reading. She added she had heard no comments on this ordinance.

Councilwoman Askren moved the Ordinance Concerning the Transportation and Hauling of Over-Weight Vehicles and Loads Over Public Rights-of-Way in the City of Mt. Vernon, Indiana pass final reading.

Seconded by Councilman Curtis.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ? He then asked that if once passed, will letters be sent out informing industry of this, as it will affect some folks.

Attorney Higgins replied since there is a fee involved it will need to be published in the newspaper. She then stated she will get with Chief Beloit and Comm. Maynard for input on what they would like see on the application.

Councilwoman Higgins asked if the certain industries that currently haul heavy loads through town will be grandfathered in ?

Attorney Higgins replied the ordinance will become effective until 30 days after it has been published, and then it will apply to any load that comes through the city. She added she would assume the effective date would be the second or third week of July.

Councilwoman Hoehn asked if they are going to send letters out to local industries, as a courtesy ?

Mayor Tucker agreed that would be good PR.

Councilwoman Hoehn stated she believes it would definitely be a good idea. She added as common courtesy for the local area merchants at least.

Attorney Higgins agreed especially for the larger firms like GAF, Countrymark, the trucking companies, etc. She added she can send a letter along with a copy of the signed ordinance, as well as to the Chamber.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any other discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:

Askren – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the ordinance passed unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer Sitzman added it will be numbered 10-08.

Attorney Higgins stated the next item is the second reading of the Ordinance changing the two-way STOP at E. Sherman and Locust to a four-way STOP.

Councilwoman Higgins moved the Ordinance to Amend the City of Mt. Vernon Code of Ordinances, Title VII – Traffic Code, Chapter 74 – Traffic Schedules – Schedule I – Stop Intersections be passed on second reading. Seconded by Councilman Fuelling.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

Councilman Curtis stated at the last meeting they heard comments about the kids playing in the street and how adding this four-way STOP would only be further encouraging that. He added it seemed a reasonable request and he does travel that street at least twice a day, every day. He stated he has not seen anyone driving that street with excessive speed, and, he has driven all over the city and there are kids playing in the streets all over town. He added he therefore has reservations about changing this to a four-way STOP. He added the street does have a “built in” speed bump purely due to the design of the street. He stated he believes most folks are cautious driving that street.

Councilwoman Higgins stated the issue with that street, before there were kids playing in it, was the narrowness of the street.

Councilman Curtis stated then he really feels it is not necessary to have a four-way STOP if the main reason isn't because of the kids. He stated drivers on that street can see all the way down it and can therefore “time” when they go so they are not side by side at the narrowest part of it.

Councilwoman Hoehn asked Chief Beloit what he has observed, as he lives at the intersection in question.

Chief Beloit stated he has lived there since 1998 and speed is an issue, some people fly down the street, bottom out on the dip, and there are many young people that travel Sherman Street. He stated in reference to the narrowness, yes, it is narrow, but people need to use common sense while traveling that road. He did state that some folks have ended up in his yard before. He then stated the house on the northeast corner parks their vehicles along the side of their home, on the Sherman Street side, and that does present a visibility issue. He added he would like to see a four-way STOP there, but the neighbors also need talked to about where they park their cars.

Councilwoman Hoehn asked about the history of traffic accidents at that intersection ?

Chief Beloit replied there have been two accidents there, one in 2006 and one in 2008.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any further discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:

Askren – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any other Legals ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker asked if anyone in the Audience wished to address the Council ?

There was no response.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any Old Business ?

Councilman Fuelling stated he would like the Council to revisit the meal expenses (per diem) allowed when employees travel for city business. He added he does not want to have discussion on it tonight, he would just appreciate it they would look into it and possibly take another look at it.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any New Business ?

Councilman Fuelling stated he would like to begin the budget process for EDIT money so they can begin spending it.

Attorney Higgins stated any money they want to spend this year will have to be dealt with as an additional appropriation and then at budget time, they can make a budget for 2011.

Councilman Fuelling asked if they have to be precise and exact in what they are wanting?

Attorney Higgins replied yes, they need a detailed description as well as a dollar amount.

Councilman Curtis stated he feels they should not appropriate it all, but rather keep some back for emergency purposes.

Attorney Higgins suggested Council come to her next meeting with idea, dollar amounts, etc., they can then discuss and she will prepare an ordinance accordingly. She reminded Council that the additional appropriation process involved an ordinance with three separate readings, a public hearing as well as advertisement in the paper.

Mayor Tucker stated they will now hear the reports of the Districts.

1st District Councilwoman Askren stated she has no report.

2nd District Councilman Fuelling stated he has no report.

3rd District Councilwoman Hoehn stated she has no report.

4th District Councilman Curtis stated he has no report.

Councilwoman-at-Large Higgins stated she has no report.

Mayor Tucker stated if there was no further business, he entertains a motion to adjourn.

Councilman Curtis moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Councilman Fuelling.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously and adjourned the meeting.

John Tucker
Mayor

ATTEST:

Cristi L. Sitzman
Clerk-Treasurer